

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Serial Number: 09/434,654

Filing Date: November 5, 1999

Title: PIPELINED PACKET-ORIENTED MEMORY SYSTEM HAVING A UNIDIRECTIONAL COMMAND AND ADDRESS BUS AND A BIDIRECTIONAL DATA BUS

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Sub C3
commands and addresses from the command and address bus and driving the commands and addresses to the plurality of memory devices; and

a second, data register connected between the plurality of memory devices and the bidirectional data bus, the data register receiving and latching the data information from the bidirectional data bus and driving the data information to the data in buffers of the plurality of memory devices for a write operation, the data register receiving and latching the data information from the data out buffers of the plurality of memory devices and driving the data information to the bidirectional data bus for a read operation; and a socket adapted to receive the memory module and to couple the memory module to the unidirectional command and address bus and to the bidirectional data bus.

14. (Amended) The memory system according to claim 13 wherein the memory controller communicates the commands and addresses and the data information using a pipelined packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register of the memory module and a second delay introduced by the data register of the memory module.

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32. (Amended) A method of storing data in a pipelined memory system, wherein the pipelined memory system includes a memory module, a socket, and a plurality of memory devices, wherein each memory device includes addressable storage, a data in and a data out buffer, a column decoder, and a row decoder, and wherein the socket couples the memory module to a unidirectional command and address bus and to a bidirectional data bus, the method comprising:

inserting the memory module in the socket;
communicating commands and addresses, through the socket to the memory module, on the unidirectional command and address bus;
communicating data, through the socket to the memory module, on the bidirectional data bus;
latching the commands and addresses in a [buffer] first register;
latching the data in a data register;
driving the latched commands and addresses to the column and row decoders;

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driving the latched data to the data in buffers; and
storing the data in the addressable storage of one of the plurality of memory devices.

33. (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein communicating commands and addresses and communicating data includes executing a packet protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

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34. (Amended) A method of reading data in a pipelined memory system, wherein the pipelined memory system includes a memory module and a socket, wherein the socket couples the memory module to a unidirectional command and address bus and a bidirectional data bus, the method comprising:
inserting the memory module in the socket;
communicating commands and addresses, through the socket to the memory module, on the unidirectional command and address bus;
latching the commands and addresses in a [buffer] first register;
driving the latched commands and addresses to a plurality of memory devices having addressable storage, wherein each memory device includes a data in and a data out buffer, a column decoder, and a row decoder;
communicating data from the addressable storage of one of the plurality of memory devices;
latching the data in a data register; and
communicating the data, through the socket to a memory controller, on the bidirectional data bus.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein communicating commands and addresses and receiving data includes executing a packet protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

36. (Amended) A memory module comprising:
- a data register;
 - a [buffer] first register;
 - a plurality M of memory devices, wherein each memory device internally contains a data in and a data out buffer, and further contains a column decoder and a row decoder, wherein the data in buffer receives data information from the data register and wherein the column decoder and row decoder receive address information from the [buffer] first register; and
 - a connector, wherein the connector includes command and address lines coupled to the [buffer] first register and data lines coupled to the data register, wherein the connector is capable of being connected through a socket to a unidirectional command and address bus and a data bus.
37. (Amended) The memory module of claim 36, wherein the address information and the data information are communicated according to a packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.
40. (Amended) A method of storing data in a memory module having a connector, wherein the connector includes command and address lines coupled to a [buffer] first register and data lines coupled to a data register, wherein the connector is capable of being connected through a socket to a unidirectional command and address bus and a data bus, the method comprising:
- coupling the connector to the socket;
 - receiving commands and addresses, through the command and address lines, from the unidirectional command and address bus;
 - receiving data, through the data lines, from the data bus;
 - latching the commands and addresses in [a buffer] the first register;
 - latching the data in a data register;
 - driving the latched commands and addresses to a plurality of memory devices having addressable storage;
 - driving the latched data to the plurality of memory devices; and
 - storing the data in the addressable storage of one of the plurality of memory devices.

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41. (Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the commands and addresses and the data is communicated according to a packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

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42. (Amended) A method of reading data in a memory module having a connector, wherein the connector includes command and address lines coupled to a [buffer] first register and data lines coupled to a data register, wherein the connector is capable of being connected through a socket to a unidirectional command and address bus and a data bus, the method comprising:

- coupling the connector to the socket;
- receiving commands and addresses, through the command and address lines, from the unidirectional command and address bus;
- latching the commands and addresses in a [buffer] first register;
- driving the latched commands and addresses to a plurality of memory devices having addressable storage;
- reading data from the addressable storage of one of the plurality of memory devices;
- latching the data in a data register; and
- communicating the data, through the data lines, to the data bus.

43. (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the commands and addresses and the data is communicated according to a packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

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44. (Amended) An electronic system comprising:

- a microprocessor;
- a memory controller coupled to the microprocessor;
- a unidirectional command and address bus coupled to the memory controller, the memory controller communicating commands and addresses to the command and address bus;
- a bidirectional data bus coupled to the memory controller, the memory controller communicating data information to the bidirectional data bus for a write operation and receiving the data information from the bidirectional data bus during a read operation;

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a memory module, wherein the memory module includes:

a plurality M of memory devices, wherein each memory device contains a data in and a data out buffer;

a [buffer] first register connected between the command and address bus and the plurality of memory devices, the [buffer] first register receiving and latching the commands and addresses from the command and address bus and driving the commands and addresses to the plurality of memory devices; and

a data register connected between the plurality of memory devices and the bidirectional data bus, the data register receiving and latching the data information from the bidirectional data bus and driving the data information to the data in buffers of the plurality of memory devices for a write operation, the data register receiving and latching the data information from the data out buffers of the plurality of memory devices and driving the data information to the bidirectional data bus for a read operation; and

a socket adapted to receive the memory module and to couple the memory module to the unidirectional command and address bus and to the bidirectional data bus.

45. (Amended) The electronic system of claim 44, wherein the memory controller communicates the commands and addresses and the data information using a pipelined packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register of the memory module and a second delay introduced by the data register of the memory module.

48. (Amended) In an electronic system having a memory controller, a memory module, wherein the memory module includes a plurality of memory devices, and a socket, wherein the socket couples the memory module to a unidirectional command and address bus and a bidirectional data bus, a method of storing data in one of the plurality of memory devices comprising:

inserting the memory module in the socket;

communicating information to the memory controller, wherein the memory controller receives the information and wherein the memory controller issues commands and addresses to the unidirectional command and address bus;

communicating the commands and addresses from the unidirectional command and address bus, through the socket, to the memory module;
communicating data from the memory controller to the bidirectional data bus;
communicating the data from the bidirectional data bus to the memory module;
latching the commands and addresses in a [buffer] first register;
latching the data in a data register;
driving the latched commands and addresses to the plurality of memory devices having addressable storage, wherein each memory device includes a data in and a data out buffer, a column decoder, and a row decoder;
driving the latched data to the data in buffers; and
storing the data in the addressable storage of one of the plurality of memory devices.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein communicating commands and addresses and communicating data includes executing a pipeline packet protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

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50. (Amended) In an electronic system having a memory controller, a memory module, wherein the memory module includes a plurality of memory devices, and a socket, wherein the socket couples the memory module to a unidirectional command and address bus and a bidirectional data bus, a method of reading data from one of the plurality of memory devices comprising:

inserting the memory module in the socket;
communicating information to the memory controller, wherein the memory controller receives the information and wherein the memory controller issues commands and addresses to the unidirectional command and address;
communicating the commands and addresses from the unidirectional command and address bus, through the socket, to the memory module;
latching the commands and addresses in a [buffer] first register;
driving the latched commands and addresses to a plurality of memory devices having addressable storage, wherein each memory device includes a data in and a data out buffer, a

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column decoder, and a row decoder;

communicating data from the addressable storage of one of the plurality of memory devices;

latching the data in a data register; and

communicating the data, through the socket to the memory controller, on a bidirectional data bus.

51. (Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein communicating commands and addresses and receiving data includes executing a pipeline packet protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

52. (Amended) A memory system, comprising:

a unidirectional command and address bus in electrical communication with a memory control device;

a bidirectional data bus in electrical communication with the memory control device;

a memory module, wherein the memory module includes:

a plurality M of memory devices, wherein each memory device contains a data in and a data out buffer;

a [buffer] first register connected between the command and address bus and the plurality of memory devices, the [buffer] first register receiving and latching commands and addresses from the command and address bus and driving the commands and addresses to the plurality of memory devices; and

a data register connected between the plurality of memory devices and the bidirectional data bus, the data register receiving and latching data information from the bidirectional data bus and driving the data information to the data in buffers of the plurality of memory devices for a write operation, the data register receiving and latching the data information from the data out buffers of the plurality of memory devices and driving the data information to the bidirectional data bus for a read operation; and

a socket adapted to receive the memory module and to couple the memory module to the unidirectional command and address bus and to the bidirectional data bus.

53. (Amended) The memory system of claim 52, wherein the commands and addresses and the data information communicate using a pipelined packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the [buffer] first register and a second delay introduced by the data register.

Please add the following:

56. (New) A memory module having a plurality of pipelined memory subsystems, wherein each pipelined memory subsystem includes:

a first register;

a second register;

a plurality M of memory devices, wherein each memory device contains a data in and a data out buffer, a column decoder, and a row decoder, wherein the data in buffer receives data information from the first register and wherein the column decoder and row decoder receive address information from the second register; and

a connector, wherein the connector includes command and address lines coupled to the second register and data lines coupled to the first register, wherein the connector is capable of being connected through a socket to a unidirectional command and address bus and a data bus.

57. (New) The memory module of claim 56, wherein the address information and the data information are communicated according to a packet-protocol which incorporates a first delay introduced by the first register and a second delay introduced by the second register.

58. (New) The memory module of claim 56, wherein each memory device is a dynamic random access memory device.

59. (New) The memory module of claim 56, wherein M equals 8 and the number of memory subsystems equals two.

60. (New) The memory module of claim 56, wherein M equals 8 and the number of memory subsystems equals one.